

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Witherspoon for indicating allowable subject matter (i.e., Claims 1-17) on page 3 of the Office Action of August 29, 2006. Applicants further thank Examiner Witherspoon for the helpful and courteous discussion of October 4, 2006 during which Applicants' U.S. representative explained that the addition of further process steps to Claim 1 to define the processes of original Claims 18-20 should overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

New dependent Claims 21-23 recite a further process step that requires the use of tert-butanol prepared in the process of Claim 1 for preparing a subsequent product. Applicants submit that new dependent Claims 21-23 are patentable at least because dependent Claim 1 is patentable.

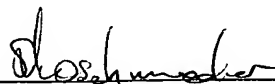
Applicants submit that the amendment to the claims obviates the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance reflecting the same.

The Examiner is requested to call Applicants' U.S. representative if any further discussion is helpful in bringing the claims into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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